

ON THE LEVEL

Edition 23 March 2020

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LLW REPOSITORY

OFFICIAL OPENING OF SECC DELAYED BY VIRUS CONCERNS

The opening of LLWR's new state of the art Site Emergency Control Centre (SECC) has been postponed as a precaution due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic.

Copeland MP Trudy Harrison, *pictured*, had been due to open the SECC, the final phase of the company's £35 million Security Enhancements Programme (SEP), on Friday 3rd April, in front of invited guests including David Peattie, NDA Chief Executive, and his Site-facing team, local parish, Copeland and Cumbria County councillors, representatives from LLWR regulator, ONR, and Cumbria Police.



Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public Affairs, said: "It's disappointing to delay the official opening of the SECC but it's a necessary measure in light of current government advice.

"I know people will agree this is a sensible course of action during the coronavirus pandemic. This is just one of a raft of measures taken by LLWR in response to the virus including include prohibiting meetings with 20 or more attendees in a single location,

assigning work to vulnerable employees that minimises risk to them, suspension of international business travel and cancellation or postponement of external group visits to the Repository Site until further notice.

"LLWR is using its Incident Control Centre to monitor and co-ordinate its response to the virus and is monitoring business critical resource levels daily. We continue to monitor government guidance and work with the NDA to ensure a consistent approach to business continuity arrangements across the Group."

SEP was completed one week ahead of its schedule set 6 years ago and within the original cost range. The programme stemmed from a government inspection of Site's security resilience and led to LLWR agreeing a series of Improvement Actions with ONR.

A new Site security fence has been erected and a reception area designed to allow vehicle searches before the entered the inner security fence. And the final piece of the jigsaw came with the completion of the SECC.



Nigel Lister, Head of Safety, Regulatory Liaison & Governance, said: "The new robust facilities greatly increase resilience in terms of a security event on Site. ONR have been around the facility and they are delighted we have closed out our Improvement Action for the SECC. It has been a huge effort from the project team, supported by Site Operations, Engineering and all the functions. The infrastructure is there to support a Site emergency response."

Programme Manager Carl Smith praised the commitment to teamwork evident between LLWR and its contractors during SEP.

"I am very proud of what the team has achieved in delivering the major ONR and Project milestones," he said. "A key to the success is the building of relationships and the collaborative working between LLWR and Graham Construction along with its sub-contractors."





All change: the MRFs for Magazine 9, above, and Magazine 3, right, are currently being demolished



Skyline change on Site

Demolition of the final two Magazine Retrieval Facilities (MRFs) on the Repository Site are well under way and on track to be completed by the end of the financial year.

The MRFs were built as extensions to the magazines and located at each magazine entrance to provide containment for retrieval activities. Demolition of Retrieval Facilities for Magazines 3 and 9 will herald another skyline change at the Repository.

Magazine 3 utilised a prototype retrieval facility that differed in design and configuration from others on Site and comprised a series of inter-connected, modular, metal units.

The MRFs of Magazines 4,5, 9 and 10, were identical and comprised a steel frame overbuilding with insulated steel cladding walls and pitched roof, attached to the magazine structure by a

reinforced concrete collar and founded on a concrete slab.

The five remaining magazines sit in the footprint of possible future vaults and will be demolished at a later date, with the resultant clean rubble used as in-fill material in the capping programme.

Gosforth top of the class in regional Lego League

Talented youngsters from Gosforth Primary School beat off competition from far and wide to win the regional final of the FIRST Lego League – with a little help from LLWR!

The company has been in the fourth year of a £25,000 five-year Lego League sponsorship of Gosforth, Seascale Primary and Millom, and volunteers from the company assisted each school one day a week from September through to the regional final in January, to produce their entry.

Six members of the LLWR workforce stepped forward to assist Gosforth in the competition, which aims to help produce the engineers and problem solvers of the future.

They included Chloe Glaister, one of three



Tense: Team Gosforth on their way to victory in the regional final

apprentices on the Gosforth team, who said of the local final success at Lakes College: "I am so thrilled, nearly as excited as the kids themselves. I am so proud of them and so happy that I was part of the team.

"It has been an honour to work with such a

hardworking, committed and dedicated team that had such amazing ideas."

Gosforth went on to produce a credible performance in the England & Wales final in Bristol, finishing 39th out of 66 teams in the robot game section of the competition.

"It was very worthwhile and an amazing experience for the kids," said Sarah Layzell, Assistant Head Teacher, who hopes to secure a second robot for next year's competition.

The group was joined in Bristol by Leona Middlehurst, another of the LLWR volunteers on Team Gosforth.

Team Millom also performed superbly in the regional competition, finishing runner-up, while Seascale were among the winners last year, for the performance of their robot.

RDP is getting into gear!



Graham's portable offices move on to Site, indicating that enabling works for the programme are getting fully underway

As LLWR's Security Enhancement and PCM Decommissioning Programmes conclude, construction activities for the company's next big programme will get underway in April.

The Repository Development Programme (RDP) is a 12-stage approach to progressively construct and close waste disposal facilities at the Repository. The first stage will continue for the next decade and is focused on capping the existing waste disposal facilities, namely Trenches 1 to 7 and Vault 8.

The first physical steps in this process are the enabling works to prepare the Site for the development to follow.

Graham's are currently mobilising after being awarded the £8 million, two-year Enabling Works contract, following a competitive tender process.

Enabling works will commence once several tree stumps are removed in April to provide a working area to build construction compounds, material stockpile areas, drainage lagoons and a haul road for use by large plant and equipment that will be moving around the Site.

New habitats are also being created so the Site's Great Crested Newt population can be relocated, away from construction areas. It is anticipated that enabling works

Jonathan Evans, LLWR's Head of Programmes and Projects and the Lead Team member accountable for RDP, said: "Commencing the enabling works is an important next step in the Repository Development Programme and will deliver significant physical changes to the site over the next 18 months to get everything ready to begin the actual capping activities on the Trenches and Vault 8.



"We're very conscious of the impact these activities could have on the local community and are working with Graham's to ensure we continue to fulfil our commitments to use rail for deliveries as much as possible and to be a good neighbour in terms of traffic management and reducing noise impacts. We recently briefed the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group's LLWR Working Group on progress with the programme and will continue to engage with the community throughout."

will continue until September 2021.

Minimising the impact of RDP is a key commitment from LLWR to the local

community, as well as being part of our planning consent. Noise, dust, working hours for personnel and the timing of any HGV deliveries are all being managed.

Dust suppression will be used as required and LLWR has written to local residents to keep them informed about the imminent instillation of sound barriers.

These 3-metre high fencing panels with designed acoustic protection are to be installed at the north end of the Site, around the trenches. Enabling works will be followed by the closure of Vault 8 and the corresponding section of the trenches with an engineered cap. The final cap will be around 10 metres higher than the current height of the trenches.

Train deliveries of profile fill, at the rate of 3 a week, will run from May to July 2020. 450,000m³ of fill will be transported to Site by rail. None of this material will be delivered by road.

The remaining 150,000m³ required for Stage 1 will come from material LLWR is reusing that was stockpiled from the previous excavations for Vault 9. LLWR is also liaising with Sellafield about the possibility of accessing some of the large amount of clean spoil material stored on its site for use in the final cap at the Repository.

Doing the business for our charity

The business sense of the LLWR apprentices has paid dividends for our charity of the year, Egremont-based Danica's Dream Fund (DDF).

In January the apprentices won the Gen2 National Apprenticeship Week Entrepreneurial Challenge, building a business selling wax melts, generating over £800 in the process.

And they have now presented their profit to John Maxwell, from DDF, pictured with Training Manager Mel Scudamore and the apprentices, who will plough the funds into helping children with cancer and their families.



Paul's Points ...



There's an element of past and future in this edition of our newsletter.

We close out the financial year with pride in the successful completion of two of our long-running programmes of work which have been operating for the past six years.

Security Enhancements completed on time and on budget, whilst PCM Decommissioning completed almost four years early and around £20 million under budget. It doesn't get much better than that!

We're seeing major sky line changes at the Site with the demolition of Magazine Retrieval Facilities and preparations for infrastructure improvements to support the enabling works that precede the Repository Development Programme's capping activities.

Change is very much at the forefront of our minds as we implement recommendations from our Transformation Programme that streamline processes and align business activities to priority areas; ensuring the organisation can flex and bend to accommodate peaks and troughs and confront whatever challenges or opportunities the future may present.

We are working more closely with our customers to deliver fit for purpose treatment and disposal solutions and there's much more we can do in this area.

We're doing all of this whilst maintaining safety and productivity.

We have now worked 1.75 million safe hours since our last RIDDOR >7 day lost time injury in February 2018 and exceeded our third term contract commitment to deliver £150 million in cost avoidance by £26.48 million (£176.48 million total).

As you can see, there's a lot going on and there will be for many years to come.

We appreciate our dedicated workforce and the good relationship we have with our local communities. Long may it continue!

Paul Pointon

Managing Director

Other News

Class effort from student Bradley

A teenage student impressed Nuclear Safety Case Team Manager Ian Wills so much during mock interviews at UTC Lillyhall that he offered him work experience at LLWR – where he continued to create a great impression.

Ian was helping students prepare for real-life job interviews when he spoke to Bradley Harrison, who went on to enjoy a varied week at LLWR, spending time in the Nuclear Safety Case and Monitoring teams, Project Management, Engineering and Service Support teams.

"Over the course of my week's work experience at LLWR I have been shown around Site, learned about the history of the company and found out about current projects," said A-level student Bradley.

"I can't thank the staff enough for spending time with me providing advice and guidance on future career pathways. I've really enjoyed the whole experience."

The 18-year-old, from Whitehaven, also spent time with the Customer Management team, where he impressed Howard Falconer, LLWR's Head of Customer Management.

Howard said: "Bradley is interested in project management so we talked about some of the projects that WMS have delivered, and why scope definition and management of risk is key to successful delivery.

"I was very impressed with Bradley, he asked some very intelligent questions and was keen to learn, and I am sure he will do very well in the future."

Ian added: "It was good to be able to show Bradley the LLWR Site and discuss options for his future career. Whilst I'm sure that our paths will cross again in the future, I wish him good luck with his studies."



Getting down to work: Bradley, with Howard, left, and Ian, centre

Stakeholder meeting is called off

The quarterly meeting of the LLWR Working Group scheduled for Wednesday, 15th April, 2020, has been postponed as a precaution due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Low Level Waste Repository Site Offices:

LLW Repository Ltd
Old Shore Road
Holmrook
Cumbria
CA19 1XP

Pelham House Offices:

LLW Repository Ltd
Pelham House
Pelham Drive
Calderbridge
Cumbria
CA20 1DB
Tel: +44 (0)19467 70200